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POL 23-9 GREECE

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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NEW GOVERNMENT SWORN IN BY KING CONSTANTINE AT ATHENS PALACE AT 1700 GMT. GOVT PREMIER KONSTANTINE KOLLIAS, SUPREME COURT PROSECUTOR; GEN. GREGORY SPANDIDAKIS, DEFENSE AND DEPUTY PREMIER: COL. NICHOLAS MAKAREZOS, MINISTER OF COORDINATION: BRIG. GEN. STYLINOS PATAKOS, MIN. OF INTERIOR; COL. GEORGE PAPADOPOULOS, MINISTER TO THE PREMIERS OFFICE AND ALSO HEAD OF PRESS AND INFORMATION. SHOOTING GOING ON IN STREETS OF ATHENS AND SUBURBS. TANKS AND ARMED PERSONNEL CARRIERS HAVE BLOCKED OFF KEY ENTRANCES TO THE GREEK CAPITAL. MEMBERS OF THE FORMER GREEK GOVERNMENT OF PANAYOTIS KANELLOPOULOS HAVE BEEN REPORTED ARRESTED. KANELLOPOULOS WAS REPORTED

ARRESTED AROUND 0230 LOCAL TIME FRIDAY MORNING AS MILITARY BROKE INTO CITY APARTMENT. ANDREAS PAPANDREOU IS HELD IN CUSTODY. HIS FATHER FORMER PREMIER GEORGE PAPANDREOU IS UNDER HOUSE ARREST. GEORGE RALLIS, MINISTER OF INTERIOR, IS ALSO HELD IN CUSTORY. LEADING POLITICAL LEADERS AS WELL AS KNOWN LEFTISTS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT SOME 1/2 THOUSAND PERSONS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE ON MAY 28 AS SCHEDULED. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ASCERTAIN WHAT PREVAILED OUTSIDE OF GREEK CAPITAL BUT THE ARMED FORCES RADIO BROADCASTS SAID THAT PERSONS VIOLATING THE CURFEW WOULD BE SHOT ON SIGHT WITHOUT WARNING. THE SITUATION REMAINED CONFUSED AS TO WHETHER THE ARMY COUP HAD THE FULL BLESSING OF KING CONSTANTINE, THE NAVY AND THE AIR FORCE BUT IT WAS CLEAR THAT GEN. GREGORY SPANDIDAKIS WAS IN FULL CONTROL OF THE SITUATION. BANKS ARE CLOSED AND ALL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION REMAINED AT A STANDSTILL.

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IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT [illegible] ARE NO MEMBERS FROM THE INFANTRY, NAVY OR AIR FORCE. APPARENTLY THE POLICE AND THE GENDARMES WERE BACKING THE ARMY COUP. NEW GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THE AIRPORT OPENS 0530 GMT AND THAT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION WILL

BE RESUMED STARTING TOMORROW. THE PREMIER SAID OVER THE RADIO THAT PEOPLE HAD BEEN ISOLATED WHO HAVE TRIED TO CREATE HATRED. RIGHT, CENTER AND LEFT NO LONGER EXIST. THERE WILL BE EQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME. DIVERSION FROM CONSTITUTION WAS UNAVOIDABLE BECAUSE EVEN IF WE HAD ELECTIONS WE WOULD NOT HAVE RETURNED TO NORMALACY. KOLLIAS SAID ALL THIS WAS DONE TO CREATE A HEALTHY ATMOSPHERE SO THAT GREECE WILL SOME DAY RETURN BACK TO A NEW PARLIAMENT.

FOR DEPT: SOME OF STATEMENTS SUCH AS NUMBER DETAINEES GREATLY AT VARIANCE WITH REPORTS RECEIVED BY EMBASSY. RADIO REPORTS TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS ABROAD WILL BE OPENED AT 0700 SATURDAY. TALBOT
BT

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